

STATE ARCHIVES OF MICHIGAN
Michigan Historical Center
702 W. Kalamazoo St.
PO Box 30740
Lansing, MI 48909-8240
517- 373-1408
E-mail: archives@michigan.gov

STATE AND LOCAL VITAL RECORDS

BIRTH RECORDS

The first attempt of the Michigan legislature to create a state-wide compulsory system for the recording of important information relating to births and other vital data was made in 1867 as Public Act 194. This law required the township supervisors to collect facts pertaining to all births that occurred in their jurisdictions, noting date; name of individual; gender; race; place of birth; and the names, birthplaces, occupations, and residences of the parents. By authority of Act 343 of 1925, responsibility for maintaining these statistics was transferred from the Secretary of State to the Department of Public Health, where control remains today. In 1978, by authority of PA 368, the legislature restricted access to all birth registers and indexes. Anyone wishing to obtain birth certificates (or any other vital record) should contact the Vital Statistics Section, Department of Community Health, 3423 North Martin Luther King Blvd., Post Office Box 30195, Lansing 48909 (517) 335-8656.

State of Michigan	86-10	Index	1867-1872
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DIVORCE RECORDS

The Michigan legislature, under authority of Act 9 of 1897, required all circuit court clerks to notify the Secretary of State of all petitions for divorce filed in their respective counties. These reports were to include the names and ages of the parties involved, names and ages of all children in the family, date and place of petition for divorce, and county where the marriage was performed. In 1923 (PA 27) the law was changed, directing the circuit court clerks to submit their reports to the Department of Community Health.

<u>AREA COVERED</u>	<u>RG#</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>MICROFILM REEL #</u>
Kent County	86-28	Index	1896-1923	5962
Hillsdale County	85-10	Decrees	1874-1942	
Ingham County	80-109	Decrees	1874-1918	
	80-109	Proceedings	1888-1927	
	89-284	Decrees	1912-1949	
	89-284	Proceedings	1904-1950	
Muskegon County	84-31	Proceedings	1894-1947	
State of Michigan	92-439	Index	1897-1923	7820-7822
	94-259	Index	1924-1977	7823-7842
	94-449	Records	1897-1923	7843-7864

DEATH RECORDS

In 1867 (PA 194) the Michigan legislature passed a law requiring township supervisors to collect data on the deaths occurring within their jurisdictions. The statute mandated that certain facts be entered on forms provided by the Secretary of State, with return thereof to Lansing via the county clerks. The information to be recorded was name of deceased; date and place of death; gender; race; marital status; age; nativity; cause of death; plus names and occupations of parents. In 1925, by authority of Act 343, the duties of the Secretary of State concerning the registration of deaths were transferred to the Department of Community Health.

<u>AREA COVERED</u>	<u>RG#</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>MICROFILM REEL #</u>
Crawford County	80-124	Register	1878-1959	2151
Dearborn Township	71-157	Register	1897-1938	
Fort Gratiot Township	80-128	Register	1946-1949	
Grand Traverse County	80-123	Index	1867-1960	2127
		Register	1867-1916	2128
Green Oak Township	68-34	Register	1897-1952	
Ionia County	79-51	Index	1885-1925	
Lansing City	80-5	Register	1897-1905	
	87-48	Register	1913-1916	
Livingston County	78-68	Index	1895-1948	
Manitou County	75-70	Register	1871-1893	
Missaukee County	80-121	Register	1870-1934	2133
Otsego County	75-4	Register	1875-1934	1103
State of Michigan	86-10	Index	1867-1871	
	86-28	Index	1867-1914	5963-5975 (old)
	92-434	Index	1867-1914	7693-7714 (new)

MARRIAGE RECORDS

In 1867 the state legislature passed Act 194 requiring every justice of the peace, minister of the gospel, and all other persons authorized to solemnize marriages in Michigan to make note of each marriage performed by them and to deliver to the clerk of the county in which such marriage took place documentary evidence that the ceremony had occurred. Information to be recorded was date; names of the parties involved; their ages; race; residence; birth places; occupations; number of times previously married; place of marriage; the couple's parents' names; the name of the presiding official; plus the names and residences of the witnesses. These facts were to be recorded by the receiving county clerk and then forwarded to the Secretary of State. In 1921, by virtue of Act 170, the duties of the Secretary of State with respect to marriage records were transferred to the Department of Community Health.

<u>AREA COVERED</u>	<u>RG#</u>	<u>TYPE</u>	<u>DATES</u>	<u>MICROFILM REEL #</u>
Crawford County	80-124	Register	1878-1974	2152
Dearborn City	83-68	Register	1881-1883	
Grand Traverse County	80-123	Index	1853-1960	2129
		Register	1853-1933	2130-2131
Manitou County	75-70	Register	1868-1895	
Missaukee County	80-121	Register	1887-1937	2134
Otsego County	75-4	Register	1875-1969	1103-1104
State of Michigan	86-10	Index	1867-1871	
	86-28	Index	1867-1921	5940-5961 (old)
	92-435	Index	1867-1921	7715-7766 (new)
	94-68	Index	1950-1969	7767-7819
(grooms only)	94-450	Records	1867-1925	9221-9407